

one edge margin being of lower substance than the remainder of the mat, comprising:

passing a forming wire past a slurry of inorganic fibers in a liquid while masking a part of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry, the part of the forming wire corresponding to an edge margin of the formed mat and the masking varying along a length of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry;

urging the slurry against the forming wire and causing the liquid to pass through the forming wire; and

forming the non-woven mat of inorganic fiber having an uneven substance weight/unit area in the cross direction.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said masked part of said forming wire corresponds to both edge margins of the formed mat.

16. The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of decreasing the masking in a direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of decreasing the masking in a direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

18. The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of achieving the masking by passing a face of the forming wire remote from the slurry across a blinding plate as the forming wire passes the slurry.

19. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of achieving the masking by passing a face of the forming wire remote from the slurry across a blinding plate as the forming wire passes the slurry.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

21. The method according to claim 19, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

22. An apparatus for forming a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber having a substance weight/unit area varying in a cross direction comprising:

a source of a slurry of inorganic fiber in a liquid;

a forming wire disposed to move past said source, the liquid passing through the forming wire to deposit the inorganic fiber on the forming wire;

a mask across a part of a width of the forming wire corresponding to at least one edge margin of the formed mat to hinder passage of the liquid through the forming wire over said part, the effectiveness of the mask varying in a direction of movement of the forming wire past the source.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said mask is across parts of the width of the forming wire corresponding to both edge margins of the formed mat.

24. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the effectiveness of the mask decreases in the direction in which the forming wire is disposed to move.

25. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the effectiveness of the mask decreases in the direction in which the forming wire is disposed to move.

26. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the mask is a blinding plate impinging a face of the forming wire remote from the source of slurry.

27. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the mask is a blinding plate impinging a face of the forming wire remote from the source of slurry.

28. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

29. The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

30. A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber according to claim 12 embedded immediately below at least one surface thereof.

31. A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber according to claim 13 embedded immediately below at least one surface thereof.

32. A cementitious board, comprising: a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber embedded immediately below at least one surface thereof, wherein a permeability of the mat to cementitious slurry varies across the mat.--

REMARKS

Claims 12-32 are now present in the application. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 12-32 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 22 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

The Examiner acknowledges the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119; however, the Examiner indicates that only "some" of the certified copies of the priority document have been received in the present application from the International Bureau. As the Examiner will note, there is only one document on which foreign priority is claimed. Accordingly, it is not understood what the Examiner means by "some" of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.